3189. [*Transferred to 18th March, 1993*].

Chromite bearing land in Sukinda Valley in Orissa

3190. SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that TISCO's 20 year lease of about 1261 hectares of chromite bearing land in Sukinda Valley in Orissa has expired and the renewal of the same is under the active consideration of Government;

(b) what is the estimated chromite reserves in the above mentioned area and what is the annual production need of chromite by TISCO;

(c) how much extraction of chrome ore is being done by TISCO per annum from the area and how much of it has been sold by them separately both in the domestic and international market and income accruing therefrom; and

(d) what is the earning on account of mining revenue and royalty separtely from this area ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government of Orissa have reported an estimated chromite ore reserves of 93.4 million tonnes in the Sukinda Valley chromite mine of TISCO. The details of production of chromite ore, its domestic consumption and export by the company during the last three years is as follows :—

(In '000 tonnes)

Year	Annual production	Domestic consumption	Exports
1990	388	171	124
1991	419	236	201
1992	545	322	203

According to Indian Bureau of Mines, TISCO's own requirements of chromite ore was 73,798 tonnes in 1990-91 and 1,50,693 tonnes in 1991-92.

(d) The State Government have reported the following earnings on account of mining revenue and cess from tho above mine during the last three years :—

(In Rs. lakhs)

Year	Mining revenue	Cess
1989-90	177.71	157.87
1990-91	173.63	110.14
1991-92	288.46	—

Crisis in Mica Industry

3191. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR YADAV "RAVI" : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the mica industry in Bihar is facing crisis and a number of units engaged in this industry are on the verge of closure;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(c) the schemes formulated and incentives being given for revival of the industry ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) There has been a decline in the production of mica in Bihar.

(b) Technological changes, use of mica substitutes and consequent low demand are the main reasons for the problems facing the mica industry.

(c) Promotion of value added mica based products, research to identify new uses for mica products, and export promotion measures have been undertaken to help the industry.

Mineral exploration by foreign investors

3192. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign investors have set terms for mineral exploration in the country;

(b) if so, the names of such investors;

(c) whether the terms and conditions set out by them have since been acceded to; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (c) Do not arise.

Setting up of Ship-breaking Yard at Haldia

@3193. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal for setting up of a ship-breaking yard at Haldia in public sector or joint sector;

(b) whether of late there has been any discussion in this regard between Surface Transport Minister and the Minister of Transport of West Bengal; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the ship breaking capacity in India is much less than what is needed and a considerable amount of work for the country in this respect is done in foreign countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) and (b) There is no proposal before Government for setting up a ship breaking yard at Haldia in the public sector or joint sector.

(c) The quantity of ships broken during the present year is expected to be about one million tonnes which is substantially higher than the quantity broken last year. Quantity or ships broken in India is currently among the highest in the world.

Perspective Plan for Steel Sector

3194. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question No. 2516 given in the Rajya Sabha on the July 31, 1992 and state :

(a) whether the report of the Task Force set up for preparing an action plan for the growth of Indian Iron and Steel Industries over the next 20 years has since been received by Government; and

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations made by it and Government's decision thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The report is under consideration of Government.

Revamping of Ferro-Alloy Units

3195. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA :
SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA :

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Governments attention has been drawn to the International Conference on developments in ferro-alloy production;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the conference suggested revamping of existing ferro-alloy units and also that instead of exporting ores and minerals, high valued ferro-alloys be produced in the country to earn foreign exchange;

(c) if so, what are the other suggestions made in the conference;

(d) whether all the suggestions made in the conference have been considered by Government; and

(e) if so, the decision taken thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (c) While Government's policy is to encourage export of value added products like ferro alloys instead of export of ores like manganese and chrome, however, no communication has as yet been received by the Government regarding the suggestions made in the said Conference. From the press report on the Conference, as well as the Draft Report of the Technology Evaluation and Norms Study in ferro alloy industry published by Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Ministry of Science and Technology, it is understood that most of the Indian Ferro Alloy plants do not incorporate latest technologies and there exists scope for revamping these plants so as to improve the plant perfor-

@Previously Unstarred Question 1846, transferred from 10th March, 1993.